(b) Remaining untrained employees would be deputed to undergo such training organised by the Hindi Teaching Scheme of the Deptt. of Official Language in a phased manner. It is expected that the training of remaining employees in Region 'A' and 'B' would be completed by the end of year 2000 and in Region 'C' it would be completed by the end of year 2003.

Horticultural Development in H.P.

3541. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) as the development of horticulture can bring in significant enhancement in the welfare of the children and women and nutritional status of tribals in hilly region and other weaker sector in Himachal Pradesh, what steps Government have undertaken in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that few districts in the country have been treated for this purpose; and

(c) what steps have been taken to select some more areas of Himachal Pradesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) For development of horticulture in potential areas in Himachal Pradesh following central sector/centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented during 9th Plan.

(i) Integrated development of tropical, arid and temperate zone fruits.
(ii) Production and supply of vegetable seeds.
(iii) Integrated programme for development of spices.
(iv) Establishment of nutritional gardens.
(v) Scheme on commercial floriculture.
(vi) Scheme for promoting cultivation of root and tuber crops.
(vii) Scheme for mushroom cultivation.
(viii) Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.
(ix) Use of plastics in agriculture.

For implementation of above schemes in Himachal Pradesh during 1999-2000, an amount of Rs. 88.91 lakhs was released. Besides, Food and Nutrition Board through its Community Food and Nutrition Extension Units at Mandi and Shimla in Himachal Pradesh organise nutrition education programmes to sensitise the commnity on various nutrition related issues.

(b) and (c) Govt. of India has recently launched a Central Sector Integrated Programme for Development of Horticulture in Tribal/Hilly Areas for implementation in 6 selected districts viz. Bastar (M.P.), Keonjhar (Orissa), Adilabad (Andhra Pradesh), Panchmahal (Gujarat), Ranchi (Bihar) and Almora (Uttar Pradesh) on pilot basis with an outlay of Rs. 14.50 crores for the 9th Plan. At present there is no proposal to include any district of Himachal Pradesh under this pilot scheme.

Pucca Rural Godowns

3542. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to set up pucca rural godowns in panchayat level to save crops and other valuables due to frequent natural calamities like cyclone and floods especially in Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) The Central Government under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of construction of godowns, provide financial assistance to State Government/U.T. Administrations, including Eastern States for construction of small godowns upto 2000 MT capacity in the remote, hilly, rural and tribal areas to ensure smooth flow of PDS items to the fair price shops in these areas. The financial assistance is in the form of 50% grant-in-aid (subsidy) and 50% loan. The funds are to be utilised within two years of the date of sanction. Recently, Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 15.40 crores to the Government of Orissa for construction of 96 godowns in cyclone affected areas in the State under the scheme referred to above.

Annual Foodgrains Output

3543. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual foodgrains output fall short of the target for the year 1999-2000;